Delay in Oil Refinery Works at Paradeep

294. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the oil refinery work of Paradeep in Orissa has been stopped due to dispute in sales tax exemption;

(b) whether the dispute came up after Hon'ble Prime Minister laid the foundation stone; and

(c) what is the capacity of production and the details of total budget of Paradeep oil refinery and by when Government first took the decision to install an oil refinery at Paradeep in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Government approval for setting up of a 9 million metric tonnes per annum capacity refinery at Paradeep was accorded in July, 1998 at an estimated cost of Rs. 8270 crore.

Glaciers Feeding to Rivers

295. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan is carrying on experiments in the Himalayan glaciers feeding the Indian rivers by sprinking large quantities of ash over the glacier to increase water flow into the catchment areas of Pakistan;

(b) if so, what are the implications involved in so far as the glaciers feeding of the Indian rivers is concerned; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (c) Media reports indicate that Pakistan is considering such a proposal to artificially generate snow melts from the Himalayan glaciers and

though a firm assessment of its implications may not be feasible from the limited information available, artificially induced melting of snow by sprinkling ash over the glaciers may not generate floods due to usually low melting rate in such cases.

Inter-State Water Disputes

296. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that existing rules are inadequate to settle the river water disputes;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that several disputes regarding sharing of river waters are pending;

(d) if so, what are those disputes together with the names of the State where these disputes exist; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to settle these disputes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (e) The existing legal instrument to settle river water dispute is the Inter-State Water Disputes (ISWD) act 1956. The Inter-State Water Disputes *viz.* Ravi-Beas Water Dispute between Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan and the Cauvery Water Disputes between Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and the Union Territory of Pondicherry were referred to the Tribunals under the provisions of this Act for adjudication in April, 1986 and June, 1990 respectively. Ravi-Beas Wates Tribunal has submitted its fact finding report on 30.1.1987. Party States and the Central Government have sought explanation/ guidance under Section 5(3) of the Act. The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has pased in interim order on June 25, 1991.

Keeping in view the recommendations of the Commission on Centre-State Relations (Sarkaria Commission), certain modifications in the ISWD Act, 1956 are felt necessary and to that effect the Inter-